

Minutes Human Relations Commission September 13, 2005

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, September 13, 2005, 6:00P.M., at the Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Colleen Byron
Hassan Elsaad
Joseph Mann
Joel Navarro
Gail Paredes-Ewen
Safali Patel-Evans
Linda Ritland
Janis Webb

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Arlene Chin
Zach Berning
Edwin Gonzalez-Santin
Dr. Louis Olivas
Muhammed Zubair

City Staff Present:

Ginny Belousek
Andrea Groves

Guests Present:

Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council

Meeting convened at 6:08 P.M.

Chair Gail Paredes-Ewen called the meeting to order and invited members of the public to address the Commission.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2- Consideration of Minutes

August 9, 2005

MOTION: Commissioner Safali Patel-Evan made a motion to accept minutes as amended.

SECOND: Commissioner Janis Webb.

DECISION: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gail Paredes-Ewen skipped to Agenda Item 4A.

Agenda Item 4 – HRC Strategic Plan Update

Chair Gail Paredes-Ewen requested an update from the following subcommittee:

A. Subcommittee for Development of Emerging Issues Report:

Commissioner and co-Chair of subcommittee, Joel Navarro provided an update:

1. Public Forum Discussion on Day Labor Issue

- 1) The Regional HRC Subcommittee on Day Labor met to review the forum and determine what steps should be taken next.
- 2) The Regional Subcommittee thought that there was a good mix of local and national participation and the panelists were knowledgeable of the topic at the initial Forum on Day Labor Issues
- 3) The Regional Subcommittee, on the other hand, thought that there were not enough panelists in support of anti-immigration and day labor initiatives.
- 4) It was decided to host a second forum to discuss the legal side of immigration and day laborers. Legislators would be invited to participate. The Regional HRC Subcommittee will continue to meet and discuss logistics on hosting a second Forum in November of 2005.

2. GLBT Issues Update

There was no report.

Agenda Item 3 –Unity Grants Update

Chair Gail Paredes-Ewen invited Jayson Matthews and Kate Hanley from the Tempe Community Council to provide an update on the Unity Grant Program:

- 1) The Unity Grant program is a program administered by the Tempe Community Council (TCC) to provide monetary support to diversity programs in the Tempe high schools.
- 2) TCC, with assistance from the Human Relations Commission, refined the grant application process to ensure funding only goes to proposals that meet specific criteria, therefore strengthening the Unity Grant Program.
- 3) The new application will require applicants to highlight how the grant proposal meets the mission and goals of the Unity Grant program. The score sheet was revised to assist the evaluator in determining if the proposal advances the goals of the Unity Grant program.
- 4) There are \$25,000 available to award. Each grant proposal cannot exceed \$6,000 in order to distribute funds to more than two schools.
- 5) Desert Vista and Mountain Pointe High School will no longer be eligible for a Tempe unity grant since these high schools are covered under the Phoenix grant program.
- 6) Applications are due November 4, 2005.

General Discussion of the Unity Grants included:

- In the past, the evaluator wrote the recommended funding amount on the scoring sheet. The commission suggested that evaluators meet to discuss funding for each grant proposal.
- Schools that do not receive funding will receive an explanation so that they understand how to strengthen their program for a future grant.
- One commissioner suggested that the commission and the TCC encourage Unity Grant applicants to attend a monthly HRC meeting, perhaps as part of the application process. In addition, the meeting provides the opportunity to encourage student participation in the Tempe Talks: A Diversity Dialogue program.
- The commission also suggested that TCC host an orientation on how to fill out the application. Commissioners Colleen Byron, Safali Patel-Evans, and Joe Mann volunteered to facilitate the orientation. Diversity Office staff will gather availability from the commissioners and coordinate an orientation date with the TCC.

Agenda Item 4 – HRC Strategic Plan Update

Chair Gail Paredes-Ewen requested updates from the following subcommittees:

B. Subcommittee for Community Network and Outreach:

Commissioner and co-Chair of subcommittee, Linda Ritland, provided an update:

1. Brochure

- 1) Although the photo shoot took a while to complete, the brochure should be ready in time for the MLK Awards Brunch in January of 2006.
- 2) The brochure is a comprehensive brochure highlighting the Human Relations Commission, the Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns, and the Diversity Office.

C. Subcommittee on Strategic Oversight Update

There was no report.

D. Subcommittee on Supplier Diversity Update

There was no report.

Agenda Item 5 –Benson's Cartoon in the Arizona Republic July 28 & 31, 2005

Commissioner Hassan Elsaad provided an update on Benson's cartoon targeting the Islamic community that appeared in the Arizona Republic:

- 1) The Islamic community met with the Arizona Republic on the issue. The Arizona Republic listened to their concerns which resulted in a positive meeting.
- 2) The Islamic community trust that such defamatory cartoons published in the Arizona Republic will not be an issue again.

Agenda Item 6 –MLK Subcommittee Update

Staff Ginny Belousek provided an update from the MLK Subcommittee Planning meeting:

- 1) Of the potential speakers suggested by the commission from the August meeting, staff was able to make direct contact with Byron Garrett and Dr. Patricia Arredondo. Both are available to speak for the Brunch January 16, 2006.
- 2) The subcommittee will meet immediately after the HRC meeting to choose between the two speakers.

Agenda Item 7 –Diversity Office Update

Staff Ginny Belousek provided an update on the following agenda items:

A. Who's Your Neighbor? Brown Bag on Mental Health Report

- 1) It was another successful brown bag! There were 51 employees and community members in attendance.

B. Tardeada Update – October 9, 2005

- 1) The reception will be held Friday, October 7, 2005. Three Margaritas will cater the event. All commissioners are invited to attend.
- 2) For the first time at the Tardeada, there will be a tortilla making demonstration. The Tempe Tardeada is on its way to becoming a premier Hispanic Festival.

C. Regional Unity Walk

- 1) APS has moved their Black Heritage Festival back to Phoenix. Ginny Belousek along with Don Logan, Diversity Director with the City of Scottsdale, met with Phoenix Vice-Mayor Michael Johnson to gauge interest in hosting the Regional Unity Walk. The Walk would take place just before the commencement of the festival. Vice-Mayor Michael Johnson was very supportive of the idea.
- 2) Ginny Belousek will spearhead a meeting with the HRC Staff Liaisons, including staff from the city of Phoenix, to confirm participation from the City of Phoenix and work out logistics.

D. Arizona Aloha Festivals

- 1) The HRC is being invited to attend the Lau Kanka No Hawaii Luau. The Luau highlights the music, food and dance of the South Pacific.
- 2) The event will be held Saturday, October 1, 2005 at the Shrine Auditorium in Phoenix.

Agenda Item 9 –Current Events Announcements

Current events were announced in Agenda Item 7.

The commission's next meeting will be held October 11, 2005 at Tempe City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Prepared by: Andrea Groves

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager